



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2007

Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE MAN SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES OF MINOR GIRLS

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOSEPH JOHN GEORGE SCANIO, 58, of South Lake Tahoe, California was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell in Sacramento for criminal possession of images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors. SCANIO received a sentence of 46 months federal incarceration, \$1,000 fine, and life registration as a sex offender. During the sentencing hearing, Judge Damrell stated that the sentence imposed was severe, and explained that the sentence was imposed in order to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to protect the public, and to deter similar crimes.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, SCANIO used the Internet and a South Lake Tahoe business office computer to download sexually explicit images of minors. SCANIO possessed over 500 images of actual minor female victims, and among those images were depictions of females under the age of 12. The successful prosecution of SCANIO is part of "Operation Valley Predator," a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the Sacramento Office of the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative of the United States Department of Justice, designed to increase federal and state prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office in both Sacramento and Fresno, has teamed with state and local agencies throughout the Eastern District to enhance law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public and children about safe Internet use. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov, or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

SCANIO was remanded into federal custody after sentencing. He will be on federal supervised release for 8 years after he completes his 46-month term of incarceration.

###